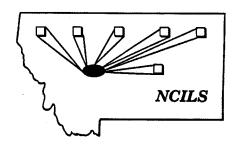
North Central Independent Living Services, Inc.



1120 25th Avenue NE Black Eagle, Montana 59414 (406) 452-9834 1-800-823-6245 • Voice/TDD FAX (406) 453-3940

January 24, 2011

Dear Chairman and members of the committee:

The proposed cuts to the personal assistance program would greatly affect the consumer receiving the service, their family, workers, and providers. The consumers health and well being is at state when you start cutting time for meal preparation and other essential personal care needs. When an individual's care is adversely affected by decreased services, the person may experience more health problems creating more ER, hospital, or higher cost care settings than if they had been provided the care that is being cut.

We ask you to continue to support Health Care for Health Care Workers. If hours are cut, the Personal Attendant may no longer be eligible for the Health Care Insurance as this is based on the number of hours worked. Currently this insurance option is only open for workers who work more than 20 hours a week.

Home and Community Based Services are viable to our <u>nursing home level of care</u> consumers. Without this service many of our consumers would be in a higher cost care setting.

Please do not cut provider rates as the cost of living and all the business expenses continue to rise such as our unemployment and workers comp rates. If provider rates are cut, a business may be faced with financial hardships that could result in a negative impact on Montana's economy.

We the Self-Directed Personal Assistance staff at North Central Independent Living Services strongly feel this program cannot afford to absorb any more cuts.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Roxann Settera Dee Almanza Colleen Forrester NCILS/SDPAS Program January 25, 2011

Chairman Roberts and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheila Patera, I live in Great Falls and for several years I worked as an attendant /care giver for my daughter Shyla. It was difficult for my daughter to find reliable assistance, so I filled in the gap. I appreciated the job and income, and would again work as her attendant except it was a challenge to complete tasks in the hours allotted. If the Legislature makes cuts to the Personal Assistance programs' it will it more difficult to find quality attendants/caregivers.

In my daughter's search for good care, many applicants wanted/needed health insurance as well as full time work.

I worry for my daughter and other Montanans' with disabilities who need these services to maintain quality independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheila Patera 712 43rd St N Great Falls MT 59405 (406) 452-9126

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Date: Mon, 24 Jan 2011 20:31:27 -0700

To: To:

My name is Kim Gaub. I live at Hosanna House, an assisted living home ,in Great Falls. I have Brain Injury and had emergency brain surgery. I have benefited from many of the Services in the Senior and Long Term Care Division . I have a care team that coordinates with me to help me meet my needs. It is a community effort, but I am truly grateful for my Home and Community Services Waiver. At first during my recovery, I able to self pay with all income sources . I had to retire from teaching. As my medical needs and family situation changed, I moved from one assisted living home to another. However, my expenses sky rocketed. I needed away to pay bills so North Central Independent Living Services assisted me as I applied for a HCBS waiver slot. In 2006 or 12007, I began receiving services. These were a godsend. I was a self pay resident and paid everything I had for basic needs. With out my waiver slot I could not pay for basic needs such as my medicines which cost \$1000 per month and rent was\$ 1995 per month. With out help I was spending all of my teacher's Retirement and Social Security. My income was about 2100 per month at the time. I worried about homelessness. Now, I DO NOT WORRY SO MUCH, BUT I WORRY ABOUT OTHERS. I advocate for amore accessible community particularly housing I hope that an accessible apartment and more attendant services will be available in the future. As a Montanan, I believe that these things are important.

Because I live in assisted living home. I would like to keep Montana's standards for assisted living homes strong while keeping my independence.

Ms Kim Gaub Hosanna House [Great Falls, Montana 59401

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Dear Mr. Chairman and other members of the Committee

My name is Judy Existson. I didn't brow I had a brain injury until after having brain surgery Aug 21, 1996 in Scattle, WA. I am here to talks about the new Montana 1-800 brain Injury Helphine. Budget update of \$100,000 per year in budget for two years for this new Helpline.

1750, Depression, Anxiety Disorders. In the past I had two left leg tom ligaments surgeries from falling down sfrom having

seizues in my lifetime.

When I was a child, I was abandoned by my parents. I was raised in a disfunctional family. I was socially, physically, emotionally alused by my father and his friends. I didn't even

attend his Jureal last August,

After having brain surgery in 1996, I went seizure - free for Joh years. In summer 2007 the seizures came buch. They Soured me to death. Friends took me to E.R. I was already seeing un Expilogilajet (Expilopsy doctor) in Great Falls, After the deft, I saw another specialist for treatments.

My physian Dr. Brian Weitz thought it was better for me to

See Do Mulgrew herein Heleso, in case of anymore seizures.

Rarly hast March 5-11, 2010, I went to Saint Pete's Emergency Room, I had a blood clot on my left leg. I'm on a blood themen; Counadin. I now have attritio in both of my legs. I can't stand long and I need to grab something for support. Take the pressure of one of my legs. I can't walls long anymore either, because my legs get heavy and sore fast,

I thous my psychologist, doctors and especially Helena Brain Injury for all their support for being with me through

this miserable suffering of poin and emotions.

I have called and hoven't heard or haven't had any response from my MILP Montana Independent hiving Project

case manager since last April 2010. She dras not set up an appointment or meeting with me yet. This is why I am asking you to pass this bill 1-800 Brain Injury Helphine. There is not enough case managers or support for the Drain injured when in need of assistance, Kemember Montana is a rural state.

Montana Independent hiving is sorbusy and full with so many caseloods, they don't attend to all their clients. I been talling to Helena Brain Injury and my psychologist for support and help the last two years. We

desperately need the Montana 1-800 Brain Injury Helpline. Trounatio Brain Injury is very complicating. Maist when I just received a letter from Social Security. They told me I may be losing my Social Security and my benefits, I don't have my physican Dr. Weitz anymore. He wanted me to start seeing Dr. Sargeant. Dr. Sargeant is closer to my house, Right across the street, Trivollan't have to evory about transportation. I'm he would be right next to me if any emergencies. This was my own decision, and Dr. Weitz suggestion before I saw him for The last time,

I will not banow until late May if Pr. Dargeant is accepting Medicaid, Medicare That's why Isour Dr. Kraintaber so I could get my prescriptions filled monthly. He is also getting me on physical theropy for my arthritis, pinched nerves, jointo some back, hip.

Somebody's gotta do it! I can't buy or even affori

insurance. And what about the Health Care Reform?

People don't understand Brain Injuries until they have one or take affect, Such as can weeks, like weeks strobes. Montana is one of the highest in the nation with people who are brain injured. We have so many outdoor activities, text and drunds drivers, bibers not wearing relimets. Itrohes cause brain injuries. You have to start

your life mentally and physically over.

Brain Injuries also cause long and short term memories. Post Trounatic Stress Disorder is another transotic Brain Trywry, God Bless our Brain Tryund Veterons of the Military!

PTSD takes affect when something of the just becomes traumatic in the person's mind, which is called Flash backs.

Montona Brain Injury needs money to beep the 1-800 Brain Injury Helpline. We need the money to help patients released from hospitals to start their lives after a traumatic brain injury, brain sorgies surgeries. People don't brow where to go, what do do, or where they're

cut oven when they are in someone's care,

1-800 Brain Injury Helpline will give people support. I have someone to contact for needed assistance,

Please Vote for this Bill!!
Thunds You Very Much For Your Time!

Judy L. Erichson 01300 Butte Avenue 205 Helena, MT 59601 (406) 449-4716